

Subject: RE: Main Street Sidewalk

From: "Richard Calandrella" <dickcalandrella@earthlink.net>

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To: "Paulina Knibbe" <p.knibbe@comcast.net>, sidewalks@acton-ma.gov

Paulina & All:

As a representative of the Acton Sidewalk Committee, I attended the Monday, August 27, 2007 Board of Water Commissioners Meeting at the Acton Water Supply District offices on Massachusetts Avenue in Acton.

One of the agenda items was Selectman Andy Magee making a presentation on the Main Street sidewalk project (Post Office Square to Route 2A).

Magee said the Acton Board of Selectmen have reviewed the proect, and that they had concerns about safety and aesthetics, so they voted 4-1 to delay the project.

He said he has walked the route with Bruce Stamski and (I believe) Terra Friedrichs, and has spoken to Brewster Conant (who owns land along the route), and was meeting tonight with the Water District to talk about the Water District land and the water pumping station which is also along that route.

He said that there is no impact on any wetlands along the route.

Magee indicated that for safety reasons due to high traffic volume and speed and aesthetics, it would be advisable for the sidewalk to meander in and out along the route anywhere from 5-20 feet --- perhaps in about 10 feet on the Water District land, and as much as 20 feet in some locations because of the 80 shade trees along the route and the effort to not impact the tree root base, and save as many trees as possible.

There was some discussion among Water District officials about this new plan presented tonight by Magee since the Water District had already approved the original sidewalk plan.

They indicated that since this new plan involved the possible use of more Water District land, this meant that Water District voters must approve this new use of land and that their next meeting is in March 2008 when a vote could be taken. There was also discussion of construction within the 400 foot radius of wells, and Water District officials indicated that this would not be an issue.

Magee indicated that this would be okay, since tree removal work could begin this Winter, and sidewalk construction could be delayed until next Spring or Summer. He noted that about 70-80 percent of the trees are marked to be cut down any way since many are White Ash and others have been hit by cars. He said they hope to save 20-30 trees along the route, but this will be determined on site during the removal process.

Representing the Acton Sidewalk Committee, Dick Calandrella said that the Sidewalk Committee has also reviewed this Main Street sidewalk plan, and shares the Board of Selectmen's concerns about safety and aesthetics and also environmental issues. Calandrella said the Sidewalk Committee also favors and recommends a meandering sidewalk constructed in such a way as to provide as much grass or other buffer between the roadway and the sidewalk for safety, and also to save as many trees as possible.

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